(c) whether Government are aware that the struggle took place just before Independence and there is the least possibility for the participants to fulfil the above condition;

(d) whether Government propose to consider exempting the 'Imprisonment before Independence' clause as it would defeat the very purpose of recognition of above struggle for S.S.S. pension; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) 16 persons, Sir.

(b) As per available information, no case has been rejected on this ground by the Union Government.

(c) The Punnapra Vayalar Struggle took place in 1946. Therefore Possibility exists of some of the participants to have completed minimum 6 months of imprisonment, before independence.

(d) and (e) The facts relating to the Punnapra Vayalar movement clearly show that it was a fight against the Princely State for its merger in India, within the Indian Union and such movements even after 15th August, 1947 are considered as a part of the national freedom movement for the purpose of grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. Therefore, no exemption is needed.

Transfer of Divisional Organiser's Office of SSB outside Uttaranchal

†*393. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether office of Divisional Organiser of SSB situated in the bordering State, Uttaranchal has been transferred from there and presence of SSB has been reduced in the region;

(b) if so, whether the decision has been taken after the assessment of situation arising out of the increasing activities of Maoist and ISI in the Nepal region; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the justification for reducing the activities of SSB in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to deploy SSB on Indo-Nepal border has been taken in view of the overall security situation in the area.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial performance of SEBs

*394. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the financial performance of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for the year 2002-03;

(b) whether Government and the Reserve Bank of India signed a tripartite agreement with States for a one time settlement of State Electricity Board's dues to Central utilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the list of State Governments who have signed the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Data for the year 2002-2003 is not available as yet. However, the financial performance of State Electricity Boards available upto 2001-02 (Annual Plan projections) as compiled by the Planning Commission is given in Statement. (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India and the State Governments have signed Tripartite Agreement (TPA) envisaged under the Scheme for One Time Settlement of outstanding dues payable by the SEBs to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Railways, 24 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,